

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
SANITARY CONDITION
OF THE
Thorne Rural District
For the Year 1906.

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Annual Report of the Sanitary Condition

OF THE

THORNE RURAL DISTRICT

For the Year 1906.

To the Thorne Rural District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my annual Report of the Sanitary condition of your District during the year 1906, together with tables of infectious sickness and mortality as required by the Local Government Board.

ACREAGE: 35,600 ACRES.

POPULATION :

PARISHES.	Census 1901.	Estimated Population middle of 1906.	Rateable Value.
THORNE	3818	3920	£24,031
HATFIELD	1606	1606	14,397
STAINFORTH	735	735	7,797
FISHLAKE	482	482	3,471
SYKEHOUSE	605	560	3,071
TOTALS	7246	7303	£52,767

I estimate the population of the district in the middle of 1906 at 7303; practically the same as last year.

Vital Statistics.—BIRTHS were 220 (males 98, females 122) a decrease of 17 on previous year, and equal to a birth rate of 30·1 per 1000 of population. 14 (males 7, females 7) were illegitimate, or a little over 6 per cent of total births.

DEATHS : 141 (males 79, females 62) were registered in the district during the year, including 19 which occurred in the Union Workhouse; 7 of the latter being non-residents. Four deaths of residents occurred in public institutions outside the district. The corrected or net mortality is therefore 138 (males 76, females 62) equal to a mortality rate of 18·89, an increase of 2·5 on previous year. The average for 10 preceding years was 16·32. The cause of the increased mortality was owing to the greater number of deaths that occurred of persons aged 65 and upwards.

The death rate in the various parishes was as follows:—Thorne 20·9, Hatfield 19·3, Stainforth 15·0, Fishlake 18·7, Sykehouse 8·9.

The natural increase of population during the year, *i.e.* the excess of births over deaths was 82.

It is satisfactory to record that only one death was uncertified. Three inquests were held during the year; cause of death being—Suicide by hanging 1, Drowning 1, Accident 1.

21½ per cent. of the total mortality occurred in children under 5 years, and 49 per cent. were persons aged 65 and upwards. 28 persons died at the advanced age of 80 and upwards, 2 having reached the age of 92 and 102 respectively.

Infant Mortality.—The deaths of infants under one year were 22, which is equal to a rate of 100 per 1000 births, compared with 108, the average rate for preceding 10 years. Table 5 shows that 8 infants died under one month, the cause of death being premature birth in 6, and congenital defect in 1. Fifty per cent. of total infant mortality occurred during the first three months of infant life. Diarrhœa accounted for one death only.

Zymotic Mortality.—Eight deaths were certified under this head, *viz.*: Whooping Cough 3, Scarlet Fever 1, Enteric Fever 2, Diarrhœa 2; which gives a Zymotic mortality rate of 1·09, compared with ·68 in previous year, and 1·01 the average for 10 years.

Phthisis.—Consumption caused the deaths of 10 persons, which is equal to a rate of 1·36 per 1000 of population, compared with ·95, the average for 10 years.

Bronchitis and Pneumonia.—Eighteen deaths were due to these, compared with 13 in previous year, and is equal to a rate of 2·4 per 1000.

Heart Disease accounted for 11 deaths, a decrease of four on previous year.

Cancer caused the deaths of 16 persons, an increase of nine on previous years, and is equal to a rate of 2·19 per 1000 living. Average number of deaths in 10 years, six.

Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, 1889.—Fifty-five notifications were received during the year, compared with 21 in 1905, viz.: Diphtheria 2, Enteric Fever 32, Scarlet Fever 16, Erysipelas 5.

The cases were distributed throughout the year as follows :

	Ja.	Fe	Ma.	Ap.	My.	Ju.	Jy.	Ag.	Sp.	Oc.	Nv.	De.	Tot.	Fat.	H'd.	Removed to Hospital
Diphtheria	1				1								2		2	1
Enteric F.			3					4	12	2	2	9	32	2	20	4
Scarlet F.			4			4	1			3	2	2	16	1	8	1
Erysipelas					1			1		2		1	5		5	
	1		7		2	4	1	5	12	7	4	12	55	3	35	6

The chief Infectious Diseases notified during the year were Scarlet Fever and Enteric Fever.

Scarlet Fever.—Sixteen cases were notified, all occurring in Thorne, with the exception of one case at Stainforth, which was removed from the canal boat “Integrity,” the disease being contracted away. Eight households were infected, notifications being received in March, June, July, October, November, and December.

Enteric Fever.—No fewer than 32 cases of this disease were notified during the year. In a special report, dated January 2nd last, I mentioned that 20 households were infected, 17 being in Thorne parish. 23 patients drank water from the canal, two from the river Don, one from the river Trent, and the remaining eight from shallow wells on the premises, which were

liable to contamination from middens situated in close proximity, and from faulty drainage. The measures taken to check the spread of the fever were verbal and printed instructions (hand-bills) to boil all water used for drinking and culinary purposes; disinfection of infected discharges, before burial of same at a safe distance from any well.

After due inquiry, no suspicion rested on the milk supply as a possible cause of the outbreak.

Water Supply.—No complaints of scarcity of supply were heard in 1906, as in the second half of 1905. Two new sanitary tube wells, one new brick well, and two artesian wells were put down in Thorne, and one new sanitary tube well in Hatfield. In my annual report for 1890, I said it was estimated that three-fourths of the population in Thorne were using the canal water for drinking and culinary purposes, the rest of the population were obtaining their water chiefly from ordinary shallow wells, which received subsoil water, and from their position were liable to contamination from surface drainage, leaky drains, and midden ash-pits. Since then seven artesian wells (one public and six private) have been bored in Thorne parish.

Sewerage.—An extension of 141 yards of 9in. sanitary pipes was executed at Thorne.

Slaughter Houses and Lodging Houses have been periodically inspected and found fairly satisfactory.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milk Shops Order of 1885. There are 18 on the registrar, and these have all been inspected during the year with the following result:

10 only have over 600 cubic feet of space per cow.		
8 have 355 to 594 cubic feet	„	„

Lighting was defective in nine cases, and the ventilation in five. In 11 cases the milk was stored in the pantry along with other food. In one case no water was on the premises, and in another the water had to be carried 80 yards. As regards cleanliness, it was noticed that the cowsheds were dirty in seven, moderately

clean in six, and clean in five. In one case pigs were kept in the same shed as the cows. The cleansing and storing of milk vessels were generally satisfactory. A hand bill, pointing out in plain and terse terms the necessity of exercising strict cleanliness in milk production and its distribution, was left with each cow-keeper.

Another inspection made at the end of the year showed that an improvement had taken place in eight cow-sheds.

The interim report of the Royal Commission on Tuberculosis, just issued, re-affirms the communicability of bovine tuberculosis to man by the consumption of milk drawn from tuberculous cows, and thus emphasizes the importance of the sanitary housing of milch cows.

Houses.—Plans for 17 new buildings were passed, and 13 new houses and a Carnegie Free Library were built during the year. Two old and dilapidated houses, that were reported as unfit for habitation, were repaired.

Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, sec. 131.—There are 36 workshops on the register. They are in a fair sanitary condition as regards cleanliness, ventilation, and provision of sanitary conveniences. No case of over-crowding was met with. The two Bake-houses in Thorne have been kept in a clean state, in conformity with the bye-laws.

Bacteriology.—Five specimens were sent to the County Council Laboratory for examination and report, viz.: three of sputum of suspected cases of consumption, result: tubercle bacilli not found; termination of cases, death. Two swabs for suspected diphtheria; result: typical diphtheria bacilli were found in both cases.

A summary of the annual report of the Inspector of Nuisances, and of the rainfall at Thorne, is appended.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. W. ARBUCKLE, M.D., D.P.H.,

January 29th, 1907.

Medical Officer of Health.

Summary of Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report, 1906.

Privy and ashpit nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	...	68
Pig sty nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	...	5
Manure heaps removed	...	...	...	...	...	9
Foundations of new houses inspected	...	...	...	...	...	11
New privies built	...	...	...	...	...	16
New sanitary tube wells sunk	...	...	...	...	...	3
Artesian wells sunk	...	...	...	...	...	2
Private rain water cisterns put down	...	...	...	...	...	6
New sewers put down, 141 yards 9-inch.						
Private drains put down	...	...	...	...	...	2
Slaughter houses lime washed	...	...	...	...	...	13
Lodging houses lime washed	...	...	...	...	...	2
Plans for new houses passed	...	...	...	...	...	17
New houses built	...	...	...	...	...	13
Midden refuse removed	...	...	...	...	628 loads	
Rubbish removed from yards, &c.	...	...	...	...	125 loads	
Total number of nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	...	120
Number of verbal notices given	...	...	...	...	...	108
Number of written notices given	...	...	...	...	...	7
Number of nuisances unabated at the end of the year	...	...	...	...	...	4
New water closets built	...	...	...	...	...	4
Cow sheds improved	...	...	...	...	...	8
Sink pipe disconnected	...	...	...	...	...	1

JOSEPH STANLEY,

Inspector of Nuisances.

Rainfall at Thorne in 1906.

MONTHS.	INCHES.	MAX. RAINFALL IN 1 DAY.	WET DAYS.
January	2.25	.42	18
February	2.07	.74	14
March	0.95	.14	16
April	0.83	.30	10
May	1.27	.28	16
June	1.27	.60	9
July	0.58	.22	10
August	1.54	.40	14
September	0.68	.29	6
October	4.55	.80	20
November	2.41	.40	15
December	1.89	.35	13
Total	20.29		161